

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

(By Senators Stollings, Wells, Foster, Unger, Jenkins, McCabe,
Miller, Laird, Prezioso, Williams, Klempa, Kessler (Acting
President) and D. Facemire)

Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study
the needs, challenges and issues facing West Virginians with
Alzheimer's disease and their families for the purpose of
making recommendations on how the State of West Virginia can
better assist them in getting the care, research, support and
treatment they deserve.

Whereas, According to the national Alzheimer's Association,
there are currently 5.3 million Americans and forty-eight thousand
West Virginians with Alzheimer's disease; and

Whereas, The greatest risk factor for developing Alzheimer's
is age and according to the US Census Bureau in 2008 West Virginia
had the third highest median age in the nation; and

Whereas, Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in
this country, yet according to the West Virginia Bureau for Public
Health Statistics it is the fifth leading cause of death in West
Virginia; and

Whereas, West Virginia's rate for mortality from dementia is

1 eleven percent higher than the national average; and

2 Whereas, Alzheimer's is increasingly viewed as having a
3 vascular basis and subject to the same risk factors as stroke and
4 cardiovascular illness such as smoking, high cholesterol, obesity
5 and diabetes. According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance
6 System, in 2008 West Virginia ranked first in the nation in the
7 prevalence of smoking and diabetes; and

8 Whereas, Between 1998 and 2007 the rate of hospital discharges
9 in West Virginia with dementia as a principle diagnosis increased
10 twenty-nine percent; and

11 Whereas, The Alzheimer's Association estimates there are more
12 than one hundred thousand family members caring for a loved one
13 with Alzheimer's in West Virginia; and

14 Whereas, Biomedical research is an investment in the future
15 economic diversity of our state; and

16 Whereas, West Virginia is home to a world-class Research
17 Institute dedicated to finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease; and

18 Whereas, One proven way to collect information about the
19 number of people in West Virginia with Alzheimer's disease and
20 related dementia is through a population-based disease registry,
21 West Virginia Alzheimer's Disease Registry; and

22 Whereas, West Virginia physicians should receive the best
23 evidence-based continuing medical education related to screening,
24 diagnosing and treating patients with Alzheimer's disease and

1 related dementia; and

2 Whereas, The Alzheimer's Association is currently working with
3 stakeholders throughout West Virginia to develop a long-term plan
4 to address Alzheimer's disease in West Virginia; and

5 Whereas, The State of West Virginia is committed to developing
6 a long-term plan to address Alzheimer's disease and in enhancing
7 services and support to provide assistance to individuals with
8 Alzheimer's disease and their families in getting the care,
9 research, support and treatment they need; therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

11 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
12 requested to study the needs, challenges and issues facing West
13 Virginians with Alzheimer's disease and their families for the
14 purpose of making recommendations on how the State of West Virginia
15 can better assist them in getting the care, research, support and
16 treatment they deserve; and, be it

17 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and
18 Finance report to the Legislature, on the first day of the regular
19 session, 2012, on its findings, conclusions and recommendations
20 together with drafts of any legislation to effectuate its
21 recommendations; and, be it

22 *Further Resolved,* That the expenses necessary to conduct this
23 study, to prepare a report, and to draft necessary legislation be
24 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on

1 Government and Finance.